

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2, 3, 9-11, and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4-8 and 12-16 are pending in the instant application. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of flocculating a micro-organism Bacillus cell and/or ~~removal of~~ removing high molecular weight contaminants from a fermentation broth, comprising adding a divalent salt to the fermentation broth comprising a glycosaminoglycan glycosaminoglycan of interest after which the micro-organism Bacillus cell and/or the high molecular weight contaminants are removed, wherein said micro-organism Bacillus cell produces the glycosaminoglycan glycosaminoglycan of interest.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is hyaluronic acid.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycosaminoglycan has a molecular weight of from 700 Daltons to 15,000,000 Daltons.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the divalent salt is a calcium salt and/or a magnesium salt.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the divalent salt is added at a concentration of 0.1-25 g of divalent salt per gram of dry mass of micro-organism.
8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the micro-organism is removed by filtration.
9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation broth is adjusted to a pH between 6.5 and 14.
13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the fermentation broth is adjusted to a pH between 7.5 and 8.5.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation broth is adjusted to a pH below 5.5 after which the high molecular contaminants are removed.
15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation broth is heated to a temperature between 30°C and 60°C.
16. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein additionally one or more other flocculating agents are added to the fermentation broth.
17. (Cancelled).